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failed. The occurrence of apogamy appears to be not at all dependent on external conditions (cultural, at least), but an inherent trait.

C. A. W.

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### Notes and News

FERNS OF THE OSAGE NATION, OKLAHOMA.—The Osage Nation or Osage County occupies a large part of north central Oklahoma, extending from the Kansas State line south to the Arkansas River. So far as the writer is aware, little has been published on the ferns of this or other parts of the state and it is believed that a few brief notes on the ferns of the region will prove of interest.

*Woodsia obtusa*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, and *Asplenium platyneuron*, are the most abundant species and are common everywhere on sandstone, the prevailing type of rock in the eastern part of the county. *Cheilanthes lanosa*, *Filix fragilis*, *Dryopteris marginalis*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, and *Selaginella rupestris* can usually be found also where sandstone outcrops.

On the limestone ledges *Notholaena dealbata* and *Pellaea atropurpurea* are everywhere abundant. *Pellaea glabella* was found at a number of places in Osage County, also in Pawnee and Kay counties and in Butler County, Kansas, but it is rather rare.

*Ophioglossum engelmanni* is one of the most common plants of the region. It is especially abundant in thin limestone soils, but also was noted frequently on shale and sandstone soils.

Along the Arkansas River in both Osage and Pawnee counties *Cheilanthes tomentosa* was found in large patches on dry sandstone cliffs. It was not found in similar situations farther north.

*Camplosorus rhizophyllus* was found in three places on moist sandstone cliffs and one large colony of *Poly-*

*podium polypodiodes* was noted covering the face of a sandstone ledge where it rises from the edge of a creek.

The two rarest species appear to be *Adiantum capillus-veneris* and *Osmunda regalis*. Near Fairfax, along the foot of a dripping sandstone cliff is a fifty-foot bank of the Venus-hair fern. Another large colony was seen in Logan County near Guthrie. Of the royal fern only three or four plants were found, but the locality was not thoroughly explored. The plants were growing at the edge of a small pool along a spring fed branch—a rarity in this region.

One fern-ally, *Selaginella rupestris*, has been mentioned. The only other noted is *Equisetum hyemale intermedium* (*E. laevigatum* as interpreted by Mr. B. F. Bush). It is common here as elsewhere in north central Oklahoma.

This list is small, comprising only 17 species in all, but it is considerably larger than the first impressions of the region would lead one to expect. The absence of the Christmas and maidenhair ferns is noteworthy as they are both abundant to the north and east in Kansas and Missouri.

F. C. GREENE.

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A NEW STATION FOR BOTRYCHUM LUNARIA IN VERMONT.—It was on the afternoon of July 9, 1917, while I was taking a little trip over the hills in a typical Vermont pasture, that I located a small colony of *Botrychium Lunaria*. I had never seen it growing before but recognized it immediately from the fleshy texture and crescent shape of the pinnules. It was somewhat past the prime of its fruiting season but I cut two or three specimens close to the ground, marked the spot and left the others to grow.

My two best specimens were about four inches tall and the sterile segments have nine and eleven divisions

respectively. The fertile segments are typical in form but had scattered their spores. Many small sterile fronds were growing in that vicinity so I am expecting much better results from another trip which I propose to take to that locality in June, 1918.

This station is located at an altitude of about 800 ft. on a dry sterile hillside four or five miles northwest of the village of St. Johnsbury but within the town limits.

INEZ ADDIE HOWE.

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FORKING FRONDS IN *ADIANTUM CAPILLUS-VENERIS*.—On September 3 last, with two other botanically inclined companions and one conchologically obsessed, I took a trip to Eaton Canyon, which cuts its way into the San Gabriel Mountains between Mt. Lowe and Mt. Wilson, for the purpose of spending a pleasant holiday in congenial surroundings and gathering such specimens of natural history as might please our fancy. While exploring the upper reaches of the canyon, one of my friends called my attention to a forking frond of *Adiantum Capillus-veneris* L. and asked if it was common. Now I had not before particularly noted any such forms so we began looking for them to see if they were at all common. During the next hour or two we found perhaps a dozen fronds from simply forking dichotomously once to a quite compound form in which the two forks split up much after the manner of the veins of the pinules, making quite a crested end for the frond. I do not remember having seen any notice of such forms in this species so pass the observation along for the benefit of those who like to look for variations from the normal.

GEO. L. MOXLEY.

Some time ago, there appeared in *Science* a very sensible letter from Prof. Clute on common and scientific names of plants. The moral of it—and a very good moral, too, is, in substance, this: that the demand among amateurs for English names and nothing but English names has much in it that is unreasonable and even hurtful to the study of botany. Among common names, the same one is often used for different plants and different ones for the same plant, so much so that they are, as a class, hopelessly inexact just where precision is a prime requisite. Latin names were expressly designed for exact reference and though botanical usage is not yet wholly uniform, fulfill their purpose very well. Nor are they so hard to learn and remember as the beginner is apt to suppose, forgetting that he has already assimilated a good many of them, such as aster, geranium, rhododendron, chrysanthemum and the like. Moreover, the attempt to create a sufficient supply of English names by simply making them up, one for each species, has not proved a shining success. Wherefore, though English names that have really grown up in popular usage are by no means to be neglected, pupils should be taught and amateurs brought to understand that scientific names have a real reason for existence, and should be used.<sup>1</sup>

All this strikes the present writer as in general very good, indeed. Nevertheless, ferns may be, to some extent, an exception. Next to birds, they seem to have the greatest attraction for the beginner and amateur in natural history, whose way may properly be made as easy as is consistent with scientific exactness.

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<sup>1</sup> Perhaps this might be facilitated if, in teaching, the Latin names were more often translated for the benefit of a generation which will not learn Latin. It might help to know that *Polypodium* and *Pteris* and *Cryptogramma* are not mere arbitrary sounds, but mean "many-footed" and "a wing" and "hidden line" and all refer to some quality of the plant to which they are applied.

The ornithologists appear to have devised a generally accepted and sufficiently precise set of common names for the birds of the United States. The same could perhaps be done for the ferns, for the number of species concerned is not hopelessly large; and it would be a suitable task for the Fern Society. The first step would be to find out what common names are actually in use for ferns in different parts of the country; and the editors will be glad to receive any information along this line which members can give.

C. A. W.

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### American Fern Society

The Council has passed an order providing that members in the military service of the United States may retain their membership for the duration of the war or of their active service without payment of dues. So far, we have heard of one who has gone to the front—Mr. Walter Mattern, now serving with one of the engineer regiments. The Secretary will greatly appreciate it if those who are in a position to do so will inform him of any others of our members who are in the army or navy, that our honor roll may be made complete.

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The early volumes of the *Fern Bulletin* are now rare and difficult to get. They contain, besides interesting matter relating to the early activities of the Society, more or less of the first work of such men as C. E. Waters and A. A. Eaton, descriptions of a few new species, and notes on and illustrations of the rarer and more interesting among the old ones. And they would be useful in filling out sets. One member has suggested that the Society undertake to reprint Vols. 1-6 of the *Bulletin*, page for page, adding that he would be quite willing to pay ten dollars for the set. At a rough guess,